

PATENT

Atty. Dkt. No. CRUI/0020 (MRKS/0093)

**REMARKS**

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated August 4, 2005, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on November 4, 2005. Claims 1, 4-12, 15-29, 32-33, 37-38, and 47-64 are pending in the application. Please reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below.

Claims 49-64

According to the Examiner, newly submitted claims 49-64 are directed to an invention that is independent or distinct from the invention originally claimed. In response, Applicants have cancelled claims 49-64.

Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 37, 38, 47, and 48 as being unpatentable over *Evans* (U.S. 6,409,175) in view of *Blose* (U.S. 4,822,081). In response, Applicants have amended claims 1 and 47 and Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 37, 38, and 48.

As amended, claim 1 includes the limitation of an undercut groove along the end portion of the second tubular adapted to receive the nose of the first tubular and to prevent the nose from separating as the first tubular elongates axially and the second tubular contracts axially while the coupling is diametrically expanded. As amended, claim 47 includes the limitation of a groove and a nose configured to have a pre-expanded relative position and a post expanded relative position, whereby in the pre-expanded relative position the nose is spaced apart from the groove at a first axial distance and in the post expanded relative position the nose is spaced apart from the groove at a smaller second axial distance. Neither *Evans* nor *Blose* disclose the first tubular elongating axially and the second tubular contracting axially upon expansion of the connection. Further, neither *Evans* nor *Blose* disclose a groove and a nose configured to have a pre-expanded relative position and a post-expanded relative position, whereby in the pre-expanded relative position the nose is spaced apart from

Page 11

400375\_1

PATENT

Atty. Dkt. No. CRUI/0020 (MRKS/0093)

the groove at a first axial distance and in the post-expanded relative position the nose is spaced apart from the groove at a smaller second axial distance. Rather, *Evans* clearly shows in Figure 10a that there is no axial separation between a nose (34a) and a groove (39a). In other words, the nose (34a) disclosed in *Evans* is abutted against the groove (39a) in a pre-expanded relative position and a post-expanded relative position. *Blose* on the other hand does not even disclose a groove and a nose in a pre-expanded relative position and a post-expanded relative position.

Claims 37, 38, and 48 include the limitation of a sealing member capable of swelling upon contact with a selected material. As correctly indicated by the Examiner in section 4 of the office action, both *Evans* and *Blose* fail to disclose an elastomer that is capable of swelling when applied with fluid.

For the reasons set forth above, neither *Evans* and/or *Blose* render claims 1, 37, 38, 47 and 48 obvious. Applicants therefore submit that claims 1, 37, 38, 47 and 48 are in condition for allowance and respectfully request withdrawal of the § 103(a) rejection. Additionally, claims 4-12, 15-29, and 32-33 depend from claim 1 and they are allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 37, and 48 as being unpatentable over *Evans* and *Blose* as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of *Kramer* (U.S. 3,915,460). In response, Applicants have amended claims 1, 37, and 48.

As set forth above, *Evans* and/or *Blose* fail to teach or suggest all the limitations in claim 1. *Kramer* also fails to teach or suggest all the limitations in claim 1.

As amended, claims 37 and 48 include the limitation of a first seal member capable of swelling upon contact with a selected material and a second seal member capable of swelling upon contact with a different selected material. *Evans* and/or *Blose* and/or *Kramer* does not disclose a first seal member capable of swelling upon contact with a selected material and a second seal member capable of swelling upon contact with a different selected material. In contrast, *Kramer* discloses an elastomer ring that absorbs a single selected material (hydrocarbons) and swells. Additionally, as correctly indicated by the Examiner in section 4 of the office action, both *Evans* and *Blose* fail to disclose an elastomer that is capable of swelling when applied with fluid. For these

Page 12

400375\_1

PATENT

Atty. Dkt. No. CRUI/0020 (MRKS/0093)

reasons, neither *Evans* and/nor *Blose* and/nor *Kramer* render claims 1, 37, and 48 obvious. Applicants therefore submit that claims 1, 37, and 48 are in condition for allowance and respectfully request withdrawal of the § 103(a) rejection. Additionally, claims 16, 18, 20, 25, and 27-29 depend from claim 1 and they are allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

#### Supplemental Information Disclosure Statements

A supplemental information disclosure statement (SIDS) and PTO Form 1449 were filed with the USPTO on February 18, 2004 and on February 20, 2004 and on December 6, 2004. However, our records indicate that the references cited on each PTO Form 1449 have not been considered by the Examiner. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to consider the references cited on each PTO Form 1449. For convenience, a copy of each PTO Form 1449 is attached to the response.

#### New Claims

Claims 65-82 have been added to more clearly define aspects of the present invention. Applicants submit that no new matter has been added. Applicants believe that claims 65-79 are directed toward the elected invention and respectfully request prosecution thereof. Additionally, Applicants believe that the references cited by the Examiner neither alone or in combination teach or disclose a recess and an end portion configured to have a pre-expanded relative position and a post-expanded relative position, whereby in the pre-expanded relative position the end portion is spaced apart from the recess at a first axial distance and in the post-expanded relative position the end portion is spaced apart from the recess at a smaller second axial distance, as recited in claims 65-78. Applicants therefore submit that claims 65-78 are in condition for allowance and respectfully request allowance thereof.

Furthermore, claims 79-82 depend from claim 37 and are allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 37.

PATENT

Atty. Dkt. No. CRUI/0020 (MRKS/0093)

Conclusion

In conclusion, the references cited by the Examiner, alone or in combination, do not teach, show, or suggest the invention as claimed.

The secondary references made of record are noted. However, it is believed that the secondary references are no more pertinent to the Applicants' disclosure than the primary references cited in the office action. Therefore, Applicants believe that a detailed discussion of the secondary references is not necessary for a full and complete response to this office action.

Having addressed all issues set out in the office action, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,



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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Application Number 10/613,347

Filing Date July 3, 2003

First Named Inventor Neil A. A. Simpson

Group Art Unit 3679

Examiner Name Eric K. Nicholson

Attorney Docket Number MRKS/0093

Submission Date

Sheet 1

of 2

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)			
	A1	US-5,360,240	11-01-1994	Mott	
	A2				
	A3	US-			
	A4	US-			
	A5	US-			
	A6	US-			
	A7	US-			
	A8	US-			
	A9	US-			
	A10	US-			
	A11	US-			
	A12	US-			
	A13	US-			
	A14	US-			
	A15	US-			
	A16	US-			
	A17	US-			

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T <sup>6</sup>
		Number-Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)				
	B1	WO 03/078882	09-25-2003	Hashem		
	B2	WO 03/036012	05-01-2003	Sivley		
	B3	WO 03/032331	04-17-2003	Sivley		
	B4	WO 02/075197	09-26-2002	Delange et al.		
	B5	EP 1 106 778	06-13-2001	Sivley et al.		
	B6	UK 706,342	03-31-1954	Marshall		

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Date Considered

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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO  <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>  (Use as many sheets as necessary)		Application Number	10/613,341
		Filing Date	July 3, 2003
		First Named Inventor	Neil A. A. Simpson
		Group Art Unit	5149
		Examiner Name	Unknown
		Attorney Docket Number	MRKS/0093
Sheet 1	of 2	Submission Date	February ____, 2004

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)			
	A1	US-09/381,508	03/20/1998	Metcalfe	
	A2	US-09/762,410	08/09/1999	Metcalfe	
	A3	US-10/313,920	12/06/2002	Maguire	
	A4	US-10/443,664	05/22/2003	Ellington	
	A5	US-10/663,351	09/12/2003	Ellington	
	A6	US-10/664,584	09/17/2003	Evans et al.	
	A7	US-10/670,133	09/26/2003	Macaulay	

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

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		Number-Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)				
	B1	WO 83/12323	06/24/1993	Krylov et al.		
	B2	WO 83/25800 A1	12/23/1993	Lohbeck		
	B3	WO 96/37680	11/28/1996	Lohbeck		
	B4	WO 96/37681 A1	11/28/1996	Campbell		
	B5	WO 96/37687	12/06/1995	Haas et al.		
	B6	WO 97/17524 A2	05/15/1997	Doonnelly		
	B7	WO 97/21901	06/19/1997	Campbell		
	B8	WO 98/22690 A1	05/28/1998	Lohbeck		
	B9	WO 98/32948 A1	07/30/1995	Pietras		
	B10	WO 98/42947 A1	10/01/1998	Metcalfe		
	B11	WO 00/08301 A2	02/17/2000	Metcalfe		
	B12	WO 02/059458	08/01/2002	King et al.		
	B13	EP 0 659 975 A2	06/28/1995	Nagaoka		
	B14	EP 0 171 144 A1	02/12/1986	Stringfellow		
	B15	EP 0 803 637 A2	10/29/1997	Gallagher		
	B16	GB 2 099 529 A	12/08/1982	McGregor		
	B17	GB 2 161 569 A	07/02/1985	Rumert		

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		Filing Date	July 3, 2003
		First Named Inventor	Neil A. A. Simpson
		Group Art Unit	5149
		Examiner Name	Unknown
		Attorney Docket Number	MRKS/0093
Sheet 2	of 2	Submission Date	February ____, 2004

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials*	Cite No.¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published	T²
	C1	GB 0221220.7 Search Report	
	C2	GB 0215668.5 Search Report	
	C3	GB 0222321.2 Search Report	
	C4	PCT/GB 98/00863 Written Opinion	
	C6	"polytetrafluoroethylene", Encyclopedia Britannica; <a href="http://www.search.eb.com/eb/article?eu=62273">http://www.search.eb.com/eb/article?eu=62273</a> [Accessed October 22, 2002].	
	C7	"industrial polymers, major", Encyclopedia Britannica; <a href="http://www.search.eb.com/eb/article?eu=62273">http://www.search.eb.com/eb/article?eu=62273</a> [Accessed October 22, 2002].	
	C8		
	C9		
	C10		
	C11		
	C12		

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		Filing Date	July 3, 2003
		First Named Inventor	Nell A. A. Simpson
		Group Art Unit	3679
		Examiner Name	Eric K. Nicholson
		Attorney Docket Number	CRUI/0020
Sheet 1	of 1	Submission Date	December 6, 2004

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)			
	A1	US-6,543,816	04-08-2003	Noel	
	A2	US-2002/0163192	11-07-2002	Coulon et al.	
	A3	US-			
	A4	US-			
	A5	US-			
	A6	US-			
	A7	US-			
	A8	US-			
	A9	US-			
	A10	US-			
	A11	US-			
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	A14	US-			
	A15	US-			
	A16	US-			
	A17	US-			
	A18	US-			

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		Number-Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)				
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	B2					
	B3					
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